



# *Milwaukee County*

## *Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18<sup>th</sup> District*

May 2, 2011

Kevin Kennedy, Director and General Counsel  
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board  
212 East Washington Ave.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, P.O. Box 7984  
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Dear Director Kennedy,

It has been brought to my attention that the Government Accountability Board (GAB) apparently has suspended state training for Special Registration Deputies (SRDs). Given the role SRDs play in expanding the participation of Wisconsinites in our electoral system, I want to register my concern with this administrative action and ask the GAB to reconsider this suspension.

The following explanation for this suspension is provided on the GAB website:

*Due to the need for Board staff to review nomination papers, recall petitions and implement provisions of the Voter ID bill should it be signed into law, state training for Special Registration Deputies (SRDs) has been suspended until after the May Special Elections. The SRD program will be revisited in mid-May and training may be scheduled depending on Board staff work priorities at that time.*

Certainly, these are extraordinary times in Wisconsin politics. Wisconsin Counties, including Milwaukee County, are currently recounting votes cast for Wisconsin Supreme Court. Across the State, thousands of signatures have been collected to petition for recall elections. However, the Legislature has not yet passed, nor has the Governor signed, the so-called Voter ID bill. Therefore, it seems premature of the GAB to cite the need to implement provisions of the Voter ID bill as a reason for suspending SRD training.

Again, I ask the GAB to reconsider its suspension of SRD training in order to maximize access to the polls. If the GAB can demonstrate to the public the absolute necessity of a temporary suspension, at a minimum, it must commit to a definitive timeline for rescheduling the training rather than leaving the recommencement open-ended.

Your consideration of this request and a timely response is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny L. Thomas", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Johnny L. Thomas  
Milwaukee County Supervisor

cc: Judge Thomas Barland, Chair, Government Accountability Board  
Nathaniel E. Robinson, Division Administrator, GAB Elections Division  
Allison Coakley, Training Coordinator, GAB Elections Division  
Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele  
Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett  
Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines, Jr.  
Milwaukee Common Council  
Lisa Catlin Weiner, Milwaukee County Election Commission  
Susan M. Edman, Executive Director, City of Milwaukee Election Commission

*Room 201, Courthouse • 901 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233  
Phone: 414-278-4259 • FAX: 414-223-1380 • E-Mail: johnny.thomas@milwcnty.com*